

country

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HOTLINE NEWS

All About People In Country Music

Vol. 8 Number 9

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Fifty Cents

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ELVIS PRESLEY

INSIDE: DANNY DAVIS

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See Hotline's Centerspread, Pages 8 and 9.

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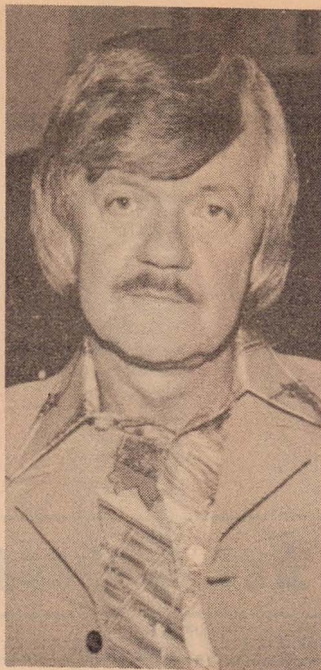
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J. D. SUMNER

"Act Of God"

Cancels Elvis, J.D.'s Last Tour Together

By LAWAYNE
 SATTERFIELD
 Hotline Editor

The nightmare experience of the past week showed heavy on the face of J. D. Sumner as he sat in his Nashville office and talked of the loss of his best friend, Elvis Presley.

The shocking news of Elvis' death hit J.D. hard. He had been at the airport in a private hangar, preparing to fly to Memphis to join Elvis for a tour. A phone call saying the tour had been called off "due to an act of God" had shattered the jovial atmosphere where Presley's backup group, The Stamps, waited to board the private plane.

They were directed to go home and wait for a telephone call. J. D. and his wife, Mary, returned to their red and white Cadillac and started home. A bad rain and wind storm swept across the blackened Nashville sky and Mary turned the radio on to hear a weather report.

A news bulletin broke into the regular programming stating that Elvis had died of heart failure at his Memphis home a short time earlier. This was the shattering way J. D. Sumner learned his best friend, boss, and confidante had died.

Sumner had spoken with Elvis only hours earlier. There was no indication then he was even sick. He talked about the tour and kidded with Sumner as he had done so often in the past.

When J. D. left Nashville to travel to Memphis, he went in a \$55,000 white limousine that Elvis had given to him. He went to help in any way he could. He ended up handling most of the funeral arrangements.

Days later, still in a

daze, and suffering greatly from his loss, J. D. talked about Elvis, the man idolized by the millions. J. D. knew him when he was just a kid. To the kid then, and this carried over to his later life, J. D. was his idol.

"Elvis loved gospel music and he was a bass freak. I have always had a pretty decent bass voice and Elvis liked to hear me sing," said Sumner, who is known as the world's lowest bass singer and gospel music personality.

Sumner was living in Memphis and singing bass with the Blackwood Brothers Quartet. Presley looked up to him and wanted to sing bass like him. At the time J. D. was one of the few men in the country who wore his hair longer than what was considered normal.

"I kept it combed back with a gallon of VO5, but when I combed it down, it was long. Elvis told Tony Brown, who was his pianist at the time he died, that he had gotten fired from a job he had driving an electrician's truck for wearing his hair long like mine. He said he thought in order to be a good bass singer you had to have long hair," J. D. laughed at the memory.

It was only natural then that when Elvis found he could add a strong gospel backup group to his show that he chose J. D. and his Stamps. He had used other gospel groups for a limited time, but they just didn't work out.

"No one has ever loved bass singing like Elvis did. He told me one time if he could have his choice he would have been a bass singer. He used to have the Stamps come up to his room to sing gospel music for him and he always joined in singing bass.

"Elvis did more to change music than anyone. He was raised listening to gospel music and was raised in the Pentecostal church where they have always had great feeling in their music. He got his beat in his music from the Pentecostal church. He took white gospel, black gospel and country and that was where his music came from.

"Elvis did not like to be called a rock and roll singer. He used to tell me that

he was just a singer, an American singer. He resented being called a rock and roll singer. He told me that there was a time when he sang rock and roll, but now he just sang music. During the last six years he didn't sing much rock and roll. Even though he recorded one once in a while, he wouldn't perform it in his shows.

"He had one song, 'Burning Love' that he wouldn't sing on stage even though the people

liked it, he didn't. He preferred to sing songs like 'My Way' or 'Lord, You Gave Me A Mountain.' I never heard a man sing 'How Great Thou Art' with such humbleness and dignity as Elvis did.

"If Elvis had been a gospel singer, he wouldn't have reached the masses of people like he did. Rex Humbard (one of the ministers who officiated at Elvis' funeral) told him, 'Elvis, you probably do more to prepare people for ministers like me to reach with our preaching than anyone because of who you are and the way you sing 'How Great Thou Art' with such feeling.'

"Elvis was a very religious man. He could blow your mind with his knowledge of the Bible. He not only could quote Scripture, but he could tell you all about it. He preached me sermons that I never

Continued on Page 3



Elvis and J. D. Sumner

True/Everette

Records The First

Tribute To Elvis

Within hours after the death of Elvis Presley, True Records recorded a tribute to the king by Leon Everette, 'Goodbye King Of Rock 'N' Roll.'

Everette, who was in the studio at the time of Elvis' death recording his first session for True Records, was whisked into another session hours later by Howard A. Knight, Jr., True President, for the final tribute disc.

True Records thus became the first record company in the nation to record and release a tribute to Presley. In less than forty-eight hours, the song was written, recorded and the pressing plant was hard at work getting the discs out. Major wholesale distributors upon hearing of True's single began ordering in large volume. At the close of business, less than twenty-four hours after the record was recorded, 36,000 copies had been sold throughout the nation.

The song was written by JEAN ZIMMERMAN and LINDA BROWN and co-published by Tackhammer Music, Inc.—BMI and Sing Me Music—ASCAP.

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 KNOW!

Elvis...

Continued From Page 2

heard any preacher preach. I don't know if he read them or came up with them on his own, but they were powerful. I never saw any kind of book in his room or on his nightstand but a Bible and religious book. "He used to say, you know that God's number is seven. There are seven days in the week, the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath, the seventh letter in the alphabet is 'G' which begins God's name. He said you take the 'd' off devil and you have evil, these are just a few of the things. He could blow your mind with religious meanings. I begged him to put down all his thoughts on tape and he promised me he would. I said, 'Elvis, do you realize the impact this would have coming from you?' He said, 'Yeah, J. D., I know and I will do it.' But he didn't. I believe he was truly a man prepared to meet God. I just thank God he lived."

When asked what kind of person Elvis was, J. D. replied:

"He was a good man, a very generous man. But when he got mad, he could be just as mean as he was good. A lot of this stuff people are saying and writing about him being on pills and stuff just isn't true. I was with him for six years, I know. Elvis gave away a lot of money to help people and he demanded that it never be known."

"Each year at Christmas he sent a truckload of toys to Tupelo, because that's where he was born. He demanded that it never be known. In Las Vegas where we worked at the Hilton, each year he would have a truckload of toys of all description brought there. The gifts were evenly distributed among the employees for their children. He demanded that never be known."

"Elvis is the only man to ever have the wealth he had to come from nothing. To give away gifts, Cadillacs to people he had never seen and would never see

again mean nothing except that he wanted to do it.

"All this stuff about Elvis being a lonely man, he was far from being a lonely man. He did what he wanted to when he wanted to. I have never seen him when he was lonely. All he had to do when he wanted to see someone was get on the telephone and the people came to him. He didn't have to go to them. He knew if he wanted to talk to J. D. Sumner, that all he had to do was call and I would be right there."

"I have rode motorcycles with him, ate in a restaurant with him. He did pretty much what he wanted to do. One thing that will illustrate this is

once when we were in Las Vegas I had been going to the swimming pool every day, laying out in the sun to get a good tan. Every night I would be in his room and one night he said, 'J. D. your tan is looking real good.' The thought hit me hard that maybe he would like to go down to the pool, lay around and get a tan. I began to feel bad about it, so I said, 'Elvis, wouldn't you like to go down to the pool like everyone else?' He laughed and said, 'No, if I wanted one I would have it brought up here.'

"He had the money to have it done. Or, if he had really wanted one, the hotel would have built one on the top of the building just for him. He had a

beautiful pool at Grace-land, but he didn't use it.

"The whole Elvis dynasty was built around protecting him. But if he got tired of it, he would break the rules and go out.

"Once we were in Denver. The Stamps had sung at a funeral of Elvis's friend. When the boys came back home, Elvis asked me to stay. I had been sitting around the room one day. I got hungry so I went downstairs to the coffee shop and ate. I heard the telephone ringing as I came down the hall, returning to my room.

"I hurried to the telephone and it was Elvis. He said, 'J. D. let's go out and eat. I'm hungry.' I said, Elvis, I sure wish I had known you wanted to go eat, I just ate.' He said, 'I'm hungry and you know you are.' I said, 'Well, come to think of it, Elvis, I am.' He laughed and I wondered how in the world he was going to be able to go out and eat.

"Elvis, the Denver Chief of Police, some of his aides and I packed into a station wagon and went out to a real exclusive restaurant. We went in, sat down and they all ate. I didn't. I sat there and looked around and wondered how all those people in the

restaurant would let him eat.

"At the end of the meal, a man came up and said, 'Excuse me, sir, but would you settle an argument between me and my wife. Are you Him?' Elvis laughed and said, 'No, I'm not Him.' The man said, 'Well you sure look like him.' Elvis replied, 'Yeah, I've been told that a lot.'

"The man left the table. One of Elvis's aides paid the bill with his American Express card and we went back to the hotel. So, you see, he did pretty much what he wanted to do.

"Elvis was a happy man. He was a good man, a man who wouldn't hurt your feelings for anything. I have talked with him, I have cried with him, I have prayed with him. I knew him well.

"Elvis didn't like to be called The King. One night during a show, a woman came to the stage and she had a crown, it looked like gold, but it wasn't. It was a simulated gold crown on a black velvet pillow. He took his microphone and got down on his knees and stuck the microphone close to her face. "She said, 'Elvis, this is for you. You are the king.' He looked down at her and said, 'No, honey, I'm not the king. Christ is

the king.' She asked him to put the crown on. He told her he wouldn't put it on, but that he would take it home and keep it. He didn't like to be called the King, to him there was only one king and that is Jesus Christ."

Sumner, the man who was so close to Elvis, looked sadly away. His friend was gone, but the memory of the man he knew and loved will always live.



ELVIS

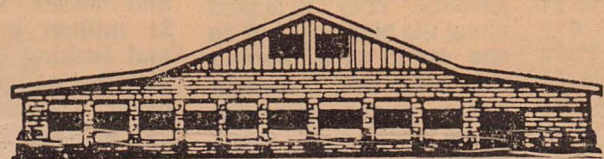
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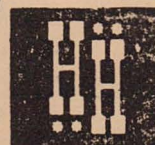
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MUSIC BEAT

AUDREY WINTERS

I am awfully glad I had the opportunity to see and hear the late Elvis Presley when he was at the peak of his career. That was five years ago at Hofheinz Pavillion in Houston, Texas.

Good friends in the promotion department at RCA Records provided me with a front seat at the Pavillion.

I have no doubts that he was overall the King!

After enduring two dull acts that preceded Elvis' show and a short intermission...the lights went off. All of a sudden there he was already on stage with a blue spotlight on him singing 'Poke Salat Annie.' The crowd was wild with applause during his first song.

I couldn't believe my own eyes! No one could be that perfect and that gorgeous!

This was about the time he began wearing the famous jumpsuits that he has continued wearing on stage. (He was 37.) He wore an open-to-the-waist white suit with a stand-up collar. The suit was trimmed all over in diamond shaped gold studs and rubies. He wore a red silk scarf which he later threw to the girls in the audience. His belt was the most striking accessory he wore. On his left hand he wore a large ruby circled with diamonds and on the right hand we wore a large ring on every finger. He played a black guitar on his first two songs. He took off his guitar and off his belt and threw it across his shoulder and sang for over an hour without even a break. He talked very little and moved continuously all over the stage.

He was backed by a full orchestra, his own five musicians that include Charlie Hodges and James Burton, The Sweet Inspirations, a black back-up group of girls, and J.D. Sumner's Stamps Quartet. The stage was full of people, but all eyes were on Elvis...and he was a beauty.

After his lengthy performance and soaking wet, someone put his matching cape around his shoulders, he gave a long bow like a Matador after a bull fight and left the stage.

A couple of years later I saw his performance here in Nashville and it was equally as good. He talked and kidded a bit more because he learned there were so many music industry people in the audience that he knew. Again RCA gave me a good seat. Then I saw

him at the Hilton in Las Vegas the same year. The audience there was not as spontaneous as at one of his concerts on the road.

Tammy Wynette has bought an airplane. She will keep her bus for the band, and all of the equipment and instruments. She will fly to her dates, but when not on the road the plane will be for charter service. It's a ten-seater Navajo Chieftan.



MERLE HAGGARD

Merle Haggard's next album for Capitol Records is titled 'A Working Man Can't Get Nowheres Today.' Merle's entire road show is going to be in Chattanooga, Tenn. at the Hitchin' Post on September 1.

Merle and his buddy Glen Martin were coming into Nashville on the Interstate and ran out of gasoline. They hitchhiked along the highway, but no one would give them a ride. Glen said "I thought a fan might recognize Merle and give us a ride." All Merle could say was, "These boots definitely are not made for walkin'."

'Mirriam' is the title of Jessi Colter's new sacred LP for Capitol.

Actually Mirriam is Jessi's given name. She dedicated the album to her mother who died a year ago, the Rev. Helen Johnson. Jessi wrote all the tunes. Husband Waylon Jennings and Roy Orbison sing harmony on one of the tunes.

At Capricorn Records in Macon, Ga., they report the Greg Allman Band along with Cher has returned from a successful tour in Japan. Cher sang a couple of songs with the band and it will be on their forthcoming album titled 'Allman and Woman.'

Folks in Commerce, Ga. turned out for Bill Anderson Day. Bill began his musical career in Commerce as a deejay. It was there he wrote 'City Lights.' A large granite monument was erected in his honor downtown Commerce.

Mel Tillis is making Stroh beer commercials.

He named his dog Stroh after his favorite beer.

Ronnie Sessions worked several sellout shows in Miss. and La. with the Hag last month. Both artists worked together in Bakersfield, their hometown.

T.G. Shepard has signed with Warner Brothers to record. He was an old friend of Elvis who gave him his first touring bus.

Circle 'T' Enterprises moved to 901 16th Ave. South. The agency books Tommy Overstreet, Hank Williams, Jr., O.B. McClinton and Red Stegall. The latest artist to sign with them is Ronnie Sessions.

Dickie Lee's new single is 'Virginia, How Far Will You Go?'

Little Jimmy Dickens worked a benefit for the Sheriff's Dept. in Harrington, Del.

Three of Houston, Texas' giant radio stations are now playing Buck Owens' new WB single 'This Old Mansion.' Texas radio stations can be very powerful in making a hit.

Hank Williams, Jr. attended and was invited to be honorary flagman at Talladega 500.

Hank and Warner Brothers are facing a law suit resulting from Hank's latest album. A woman who calls herself "a simple, uneducated housewife and mother" is suing for \$1 million in damages and seeking to halt the distribution of the LP cover. The woman works as a waitress at the Elliston Place Soda Shop. The lady happened to be in the picture when it was shot.

Bill Monroe just keeps on. At 65, he is one of



OL' WAYLON HELPED WIFE JESSI ON HER NEW ALBUM.



TINY TIM CAME to Nashville and recorded a country session for True Records. Jean Howard and Helen Farmer also signed him to a membership in the Country Music Association—the organization for which they work. Witnessing the membership signing are, from left, LaWayne Satterfield, Hotline Editor; Jean Howard, Helen Farmer, and Howard Knight, True Records president. Tiny's new single, 'Country Queen' will be released in October.

the most active performers in music. He travels 150,000 miles each year to better than 200 concerts and manages to slip in 20 performances at the Opry. He brought his unique brand of music to the Opry in 1939 and nearly 40 years later he is still "progressive."

At Bill's 11th Annual Bill Monroe Bluegrass Festival in Beanblossom, Ind. fans as far away as Japan, Germany, Holland, England, France and Canada, Alaska and Calif. came to this year's festivities.

There is an interesting story in the current issue of Rolling Stone Magazine written by Chet Flippo about Dolly Parton.

Dolly tells a lot of interesting things about herself. Pick up a current copy on the newsstands.

Jerry Lee Lewis has

been in town recording at Mercury Records.

David Wilkins left MCA to join Playboy Records. Eddie Kilroy is producing his sessions.

Roger Danner of A & R Products, is wearing a collar while recuperating from a broken neck in a water skiing accident.

Rita Remington appeared on the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport recently. She is promoting her new Plantation album 'My Melody of Love.'

Pee Wee's Restaurant and Dinner Club at 51st and Charlotte is about the finest club in town now. A complete remodeling job has been done in the restaurant part to match the already enlarged and new dinner club. The club specializes in fried chicken that is hot with cayenne pepper they call "Hot chicken."

Jessica James (Cathy Twitty Harris) traveled to Baton Rouge, La. to pass on the title of 'World's Ideal Miss' to this year's recipient. She gave a farewell speech which was a tribute to her mother, Micki Twitty. She crowned this year's queen during the pageant ceremonies.

For the first time in his career, Charley Pride with his entire show featuring Dave and Sugar and The Pridemen will perform a series of Theatre-in-the-Round engagements this autumn in Chicago, Cleveland and San Francisco.

He has seven engagements in Chicago, five in Cleveland and five in San Francisco. The dates were set by Chardon, Inc. and Markue Ent.

Joe Barry's first album on Dot is called 'Joe Barry.' The LP is a mixture of country, blues and rock. From Cutoff, La.,

Joe has worked with Dr. John, Smiley Lewis, Clarence "Frogman" Henry, Bobby "Blue" Bland and T-Bone Walker, among others.

The third annual Roy Clark Celebrity Golf Tournament will be played at Cedar Ridge Country Club in Tulsa on September 16-17.

The Oak Ridge Boys are beginning to wish they had never heard of an Eagle Bus. After some recent shows out west, the boys climbed aboard their bus to come home only to have the engine quit outside Albuquerque. The boys flew home. One of the band members flew back to get the bus after it was repaired. The bus broke down again. This happened three times. Since then they have used a rented bus and not really sure they want to get



JESSICA JAMES

theirs running again. Their newest ABC/Dot record is 'Y'all Come Back Saloon.'

Charley Pride and Ronnie Milsap performed a special show at the Opry on Aug. 8 in honor of the visiting president of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere.

a tribute to ELVIS

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Waylon, Ronnie, Kenny, Loretta Lead In CMA Balloting

Waylon Jennings, the superstar 'outlaw' whose RCA records have been soaring to the gold and platinum ranks, has been nominated in five of the 10 categories of the annual Country Music Association Awards voting.

Following strong on his heels with four nominations each are Ronnie Milsap and Kenny Rogers in the finalists announced by the Country Music Association.

Loretta Lynn, with three nominations, is the leader among the female entertainers.

The winners in each of the categories will be announced October 10 during the 11th annual CMA Awards presentation which will be televised live from the Grand Ole Opry House. The CMA Awards Show kicks off a week of country music festivities as part of the annual WSM Birthday Celebration and Disc Jockey Convention.

The awards show, which will be hosted by Johnny Cash, will also see two new inductees—one living and one deceased—in the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jennings, who has skyrocketed vocally during the past two years with his brand of outlaw music, is one of the five finalists in the categories of Male Vocalists of the Year, Entertainer of the Year, Single Record of the Year, and Vocal Duo of the Year (with outlaw partner Willie Nelson).

Milsap and Rogers, who have shot to the top of the charts with 'It Was Almost Like A Song' and 'Lucille' respectively, were nominated for Entertainer of the Year, Male Vocalists of the Year, Album of the Year, and Single of the Year.

Ms. Lynn was nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year, and Vocal Duo of the Year with partner Conway Twitty.

In addition to Jennings, Milsap and Rogers, nominated for the prestigious Entertainer of the Year are Dolly Parton and Merle Haggard.

Vying for another major honor, Song Of The Year, are Chips Moman and Bobby Emmons, 'Luckenbach, Texas'; Roger Bowling and Hal Bynum, 'Lucille'; Allen Toussaint, 'Southern Nights'; and Kent Robbins, 'I'm A Stand By My Woman, Man'.

Finalists in the categories of achievement are:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR: Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, Ronnie Milsap, Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers.
SINGLE OF THE YEAR: 'It Was Almost

'Like A Song' by Ronnie Milsap; 'Luckenbach, Texas' by Waylon Jennings; 'Lucille' by Kenny Rogers; 'Margaritaville' by Jimmy Buffett; and 'Southern Nights' by Glen Campbell.

ALBUM OF THE YEAR: 'I Don't Want To Have To Marry You' by Jim Ed Brown and Helen Cornelius; 'I Remember Patsy' by Loretta Lynn; 'Kenny Rogers' by Kenny

Rogers; '01' Waylon' by Waylon Jennings; and 'Ronnie Milsap Live' by Ronnie Milsap.

SONG OF THE YEAR: 'I'm A Stand By My Woman Man' by Kent Robbins; 'It Was Almost Like A Song' by Hal David and Archie Jordan; 'Lucille' by Roger Bowling and Hal Bynum; 'Luckenbach' by Chips Moman and Bobby Emmons; and

'Southern Nights' by Allen Toussaint.

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR: Crystal Gayle, Emmylou Harris, Loretta Lynn, Barbara Mandrell, and Dolly Parton.

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR: Larry Gatlin, Waylon Jennings, Ronnie Milsap, Kenny Rogers and Don Williams.

VOCAL GROUP OF

THE YEAR: Asleep At The Wheel, Dave and Sugar, the Eagles, Oak Ridge Boys, and the Statler Brothers.

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR: Bill Anderson and Mary Lou Turner, Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty, Jim Ed Brown and Helen Cornelius; Tammy Wynette and George Jones; and Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson.

INSTRUMENTAL GROUP OF THE YEAR: Asleep At The Wheel, Charlie Daniels Band, Danny Davis and The Nashville Brass; Marshall Tucker Band and The Original Texas Playboys.

INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: Chet Atkins, Johnny Gimble, Charlie McCoy, Hargus (Pig) Robbins.



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In 1976 alone, over 780,000 guests attended a total of 1,072 shows at the Martin Folk Music Show. Martin's show was the top event in the park last year—a year that saw 2,076,234 friends visit the whole range of attractions at Opryland, U.S.A.

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Pretty **STELLA PARTON** recently taped a Merv Griffin Show for national viewing in September. She sang her current Elektra release, 'The Danger Of A Stranger'.



STELLA JIM ED BROWN

MICKEY GILLEY appeared on the Bob Bran Show in Columbus, Ohio, a syndicated show covering several states, then flew to Toronto where he taped 'Nashville Swing', a new Canadian country music show which is syndicated coast to coast.

Elektra Records' **VERN GOSDIN** is really out there hustling to promote his new single and album of the same name, 'Til The End'. The song was written by his wife, Cathy. Vern appeared on The Bob Braun Show at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus and then stayed to do the WMNI Radio Country Cavalcade. Then he jetted to Toronto for a live performance at CFGM and to tape some syndicated radio interviews.

GENE WATSON is really having a streak of good recording luck with Dallas Harm penned tunes. Dallas wrote Gene's hit single, 'Paper Rosie' and his current chart climber, 'The Old Man And The Horn'. During a recent trip to Hamilton, Ontario, Gene met Dallas for the first time. The songwriter gifted Gene with the Brazilian made dobro guitar that he used to compose 'Paper Rosie'.

Country entertainer **FERLIN HUSKY** is recuperating beautifully following his open heart surgery. Husky, who had consulted doctors in St. Paul, Minn., for another ailment was advised to have the surgery to correct blockage in four coronary arteries as soon as possible.

JERRY CLOWER, JIM ED BROWN, HELEN CORNELIUS and **WENDY HOLCOMBE** will be off to Hot Springs, Ark., for the taping of their syndicated television show. While there the cast will be hosted by Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and tourist officials.

While filming 'Nashville On The Road' in Columbus, Ga., recently the entire cast received keys to the city, except 14-year-old Wendy who was napping on the make-up bus. When the mayor realized he had overlooked Wendy, he presented her a key three times the size of Jim Ed, Helen, and Jerry's keys.

Don Gibson, Hickory Records artist, recently appeared on Marty Robbins' 'Spotlight'. He was surprised when his mentor, Wesley Rose, president of Acuff-Rose Publishing Co., appeared as a special guest to talk about Don's career.



Tillis

Fargo

Roy Clark just completed an appearance at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas with his co-host as Minnie Pearl. Minnie has been playing the fair circuit this summer while Roy has been subbing as host a lot on the Tonight Show.

Donna Fargo headlined the Knotts Berry Farm in Buena Park, California, recently; while Buck Trent packed them in in The Rambler Club in Walsenburg, Colo., and the Lakeside Club in Shoshoni, Wyo.

MCA artist, **Mel Tillis**, jetted to London where he taped a special, 'A Salute To The Beatles', scheduled for a Thanksgiving Day airing there.

Freddy Fender has been busy on the television circuit. He recently taped



BRENDA LEE ROY CLARK

appearances on the Tonight Show, the Merv Griffin and Dinah.

The Four Guys have signed a recording contract with Gar-Pax, a division of GRT. Their first single for the label, 'Mother Country Music' was produced by Gary S. Paxton.

Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass will be playing a three week engagement at The Nugget in Sparks, Nev., December 1-21.

Jacky Ward, an avid fisherman, seldom gets time to indulge in his favorite hobby these days. However, he recently participated in the Bass Tournament in Augusta, Ga. Jacky landed a nine pound bass to win the tournament.

Lynn Anderson and husband **Glen Sutton** getting a friendly divorce? Sounds like it. Glen will continue to produce Lynn for Columbia Records. He produced her smash hit, 'I Didn't Promise You A Rose Garden'.

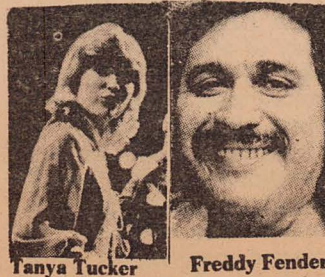
Two hour long specials will be filmed in September at the Grand Ole Opry House and Opryland. The first show, slated Sept. 21-22, will be hosted by **Lynn Anderson** and will feature **John Davidson**, **Chet Atkins**, **England Dan** and **John Ford Coley**.

The second show, slated Sept. 26-27, will have **Wayne Newton** as the host. Guests will be **Tanya Tucker**, **Tammy Wynette** and **Barbara Mandrell**.

Pretty **Susan Raye** and her husband **Jerry Wiggins** are expecting their sixth child in March. "I would like to say that we want a girl, but we are expecting a boy, since the other five are boys," laughed the United Artists Records vocalist.

Singer **Connie Cato** and her husband, **Bob Green**, are expecting their first child this fall. So are the **Vernon Oxfords**.

Hickory Records artist **Carl Smith** recently auctioned off some parcels of land from his million dollar farm. The reason? Carl says taking care of so much land was beginning to interfere with his singing career and he wasn't going to let anything interfere with that.



Tanya Tucker

Freddy Fender

Donna Fargo just completed work on a new album for Warner Brothers Records. Producer for the project was her husband, **Stan Silvers**.

Willie Nelson has purchased a new home in Colorado and leased an apartment on the ocean near Los Angeles. However, despite popular rumors to the contrary, Willie does not intend to move permanently from Austin, Texas.

MCA's **Mel Tillis** will be promoting the Teaberry line of 40 channel CB radios during the coming year. The campaign will be aired on radio stations across the country and will include national magazine advertisement.

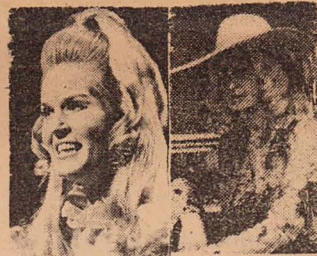
When he was 14 years old, MCA artist **Merle Haggard** peeked into a Tulsa dance hall to get his first glimpse of **Bob Wills**. People said Wills' ghost was alive again recently when Merle appeared at the Performing Arts Center in Tulsa. Merle opened his 21-song set with three Wills numbers, and his resemblance to the legendary band-leader was more than striking, when he dedicated the show to Wills. "Bob Wills actually presented the Texas Playboys to the world in Tulsa in 1934. I wasn't around then: I sure was glad

that I was around later to hear the music."

Little **David Wilkins** has signed a recording contract with Playboy Records. He departed MCA Records in lieu of Playboy.

Dynamic entertainer **Brenda Lee** asked for and was given a release from her MCA Records contract. No word yet where she will land, but you can bet Brenda is just like a cat. She will land with her feet up and be ready to jump into the spotlight again with a new label. She has talked with one very outstanding producer about producing her new sessions. He is very excited. We can't tell you more than that. Mum's the word.

Jeannie Pruett hasn't signed with another label yet, but don't underestimate this gal. Jeannie has perfect timing.



LYNN

Tammy

Waylon Jennings and **Jessi Colter** (Mr. and Mrs.) have recently purchased a house near Brentwood. Some say that it is a chalet, some say that it is a barn. We shall wait and see.

Linda Hargrove has just landed a big account with the Beech Nut Company writing and singing their radio commercials. Doors open with ease for this talented young lady.

DOTTSY taped the Air Force Radio Show at Studio One in Nashville while she was in town to record with producer **Roy Dea**. She taped the Show Biz TVer 'Nashville On The Road' in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Capitol is releasing a new single on **R. W. BLACKWOOD & THE BLACKWOOD SINGERS** on Sept. 5. 'Freedom Lives In A Country Song' is one of the best songs in their show



GOT NEWS?
CALL
HOTLINE
822-1186
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TOM and TED, the Le GRADE TWINS, busy promoting their just-released KOALA disc, 'Andaleigha Mia', will be appearing



CONNIE CATO

Danny

at the 43rd Annual International Twins Convention in Washington, D.C., September 2-5.

The LeGardes will also appear on the CBS-TV Special, 'WACKO', airing September 8th.

RAY SANDERS HAS A SURE-FIRE HIT WITH HIS FIRST Republic outing, 'I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE TONIGHT', currently being charted in the national trades. Sanders, leader of the Palomino house band for several months, has left that position and will be free to work the road promoting his blossoming recording career.

BUCK STARR was the selected act to open the new CARAVAN Club in Clovis, New Mexico. From there the Buck Starr Show moves into the all-new Red Raider in Lubbock, Texas for a two-weeks stint.

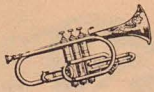
DOTTIE WEST will be seen on national tv doing commercials and PSAs on behalf of Coca-Cola, Northwestern Bell Tele-



Susan Raye

Linda Hargrove

phone System, the Boy Scouts of America and the National 4-H Club. The beautiful redhead shows off Coke's \$40,000 camper in the company's promotional contest with air time purchased on the NBC 'Tonight' and 'Today' programs and on major football games slated for the fall-winter schedule.



Danny Davis Pushes Dre

By LAWYNE SATTERFIELD

The marquee outside the packed Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, Ala., blazed brightly in the night: 'Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass Appearing Tonight.'

Inside, concert patrons scurried back to their seats from the concession stand as the lights dimmed signalling an end to the intermission. It was curtain time for the main act of the evening; time for the music to begin from the man the people had come to see.



A QUICK CUP OF COFFEE before heading for the plane and personal appearances. The alabaster table is one Barbara and Danny picked up in Mexico.

At the side of the stage, Danny Davis smiled and quipped jokes with the stage crew, the picture of a man who enjoys his work. If the ever-present 'before show butterflies' that strikes most performers had hit him, he did not show it. He looked like a man about to stroll onto the golf links to enjoy his favorite recreation.

Glancing quickly at The Nashville Brass already in place on the darkened stage, Danny tucked his trumpet under his arm and swiftly moved to the center stage. With a roll of the drums, the master of ceremonies began to announce '...tonight's special guest' before he was drowned out by spontaneous applause, whistles and shouts.

As the spotlights hit the Brass they broke into a rollicking country song, swaying to the music, moving to the beat. If the applause could have drowned out the music, it would have. This was clearly a Nashville Brass audience.

"Should I do 'Gershwin'?"

Earlier in the evening, over a leisurely dinner prior to the show, Danny turned to Elaine Fulton, vice president of Danny

Davis Productions, Nancy Dunne, chief administrator of his publishing companies, Acoustic and Lawday, and his wife, Barbara.

"I wonder if I should do my George Gershwin medley tonight in the show, or do my Nashville medley. I wonder which one the people would enjoy the most," said the band leader of the group that has won more Grammy and CMA Awards than any other instrumental group.

"Maybe you should do your Nashville medley," volunteered Elaine, "since this is definitely country

Nashville Brass. They can play anything and the people love it. Country music is Danny's first love and that is what the Nashville Brass is noted for playing.

Pushing hard country, beer drinking songs through brass horns is still an idea that rankles some of the died-in-the-wool country stalwarts, but it is an idea that Davis always knew would work. Even back in New York, when he was a noted producer, Danny tried to get various labels to listen to his belief of horns in country music. Those same record company executives who said it wouldn't work, now pat Danny on the back and say, 'We knew you could do it.'

Davis, who attended the New England Conservatory of Music, and at the age of 14 was trumpet soloist with the Massachusetts All State Symphony Orchestra, is an unlikely candidate to lead an all country brass playing band. After all he has played pop music with such famous band leaders as Bobby Bryne, Gene Krupa, Bob Crosby, Hal McIntire, Art Mooney and Freddy Martin; had a vocal hit record with 'The Object Of My Affection' and an instrumental hit with 'Trumpet Cha Cha Cha'.

He produced all the hits of Connie Francis, as well as singles/albums on Richard Chamberlain, David Rose, Johnny Tillotson and Richard Burton. He discovered and recorded an English group known as Herman's Hermits.

Davis' dream of forming a country music group persisted while he quietly went about his duty of

producing records for RCA. In 1968 when RCA transferred Davis to Nashville as assistant to Chet Atkins, RCA vice president in charge of the Nashville operations, the dream began to take shape.

"I talked to Chet about my idea and he gave me the full go ahead to try it," Danny remembers. "All I wanted was a chance. I knew it would work."

Work it did. The Nashville Brass' first single, 'I Saw The Light' became an instant hit. Within six months their first album had sold 380,000 copies. The next thing they knew they had won a Grammy Award for their recording of 'Kawliga'. The Country Music Association had awarded them The Best Instrumental Group of the Year. An award they were to pick up six consecutive times. As the awards rolled in, so did skeptics of the idea. They not only became fans, but went out and purchased records and bought tickets to see them play country music concerts, state fairs, on the strip in Las Vegas. The Brass opened Chicago's London House to country music for the first time.

Davis, the innovator, had brought a musical change to country. Country in return had opened its heart and soul to the Nashville Brass.

Sitting in his plush 19 room three story house, Danny talks excitedly about his newest RCA record, the one he feels will (or should) make its way to the top of the country charts. Despite all of his success with album sales, the Nashville Brass bandleader has never seen one of his singles reach the top of the charts.

"It's a strange thing about instrumentals, the radio stations play them to lead into commercials or the news. Often we are played on the radio without the announcer saying anything about who we are. I think our new record will change all of that."

"It is a Mickey Newbury song called, 'How I Love Them Old Songs'. It is a sing-along song that is catchy and up-tempo. All of the RCA promotion people are excited about it and I am really excited. I think this is the one that will do it for us," said Danny, turning to his stereo for a sneak preview.

Davis, The Brass and The Danny Davis Singers belt out a song that makes you want to keep returning the needle to the grooves.



PHOTOGRAPHY IS ONE of Danny's hobbies. Here he compares his camera to the fancy model

Barbara Davis, staunch supporter, critic, wife and constant road traveling companion to her husband, speaks up: "The night Danny finished the song



DANNY PRACTICES HIS GOLF SWING on some walnuts in his yard.



OFF THE ROAD AND RELAXING at home is time precious to Barbara and Danny.

reams Through His Horn



Hotline photographer Hope Powell was using when she shot this.

he brought it home and woke me up to hear it. That's how excited he was. I was so sleepy that I just wandered in a daze to the den to hear it. I got so excited that we sat up most of the night just playing it over and over. It's the best thing I have ever heard."

Barbara's his most loyal fan.

Davis grinned and warned against being 'too sure' to his wife. "In the record business you never know. If you knew exactly what the public was going to buy, you could cut hit records every time you went into the studio."

"I know it's going to be a hit. I know it. I have a special feeling about this record and I haven't had this feeling before," she countered.

If there would be one isolated reason for Davis' success—aside from his vast musical talent and special knack for knowing what to do at the right time—it would be the moral support he gets from his wife.

It was Barbara who en-

couraged her husband to stick to music the year he was offered a \$25,000 a year job as a sales manager. That was the same year he was making \$90.00 a week to support a wife and three children.

With a thought running through his mind, his father had often told him: 'It's a poor art that doesn't support its artist', Danny asked Barbara if she thought he should take the job.

"Will you be happy," she asked. "No," replied Danny. "Then don't take it. Do what will make you happy," she insisted.

"Barbara has always supported me in my music," Davis said.

The Davis' are constantly together. They travel to his showdates in their own private airplane, a mode of transportation necessitated because of more than 300 working days annually. Hotel rooms and restaurant food have become a way of life for them.

Those 'at home' days are rare for Danny and Barbara. Those are days they treasure. Their three story Brentwood home is a haven full of constant activity.

Danny's work at home is made easier by the fact he has located his executive offices of Danny Davis Productions and Acoustic

Across the hall is a large whirlpool bath, the one room where Barbara usually heads. The remainder of the third floor

Gold Records line the walls of Danny's office at his home near Nashville.

and Lawday Music on the second floor where Elaine and Nancy work. Across the hall, in a former bedroom, Danny's private office is filled with song tapes, paper work, the walls are lined with awards and a gold record for their Bi-Centennial album. Both firms have offices on Music Row where a full staff keeps busy, but rarely sees their boss, taking directives instead from one of the girls.

Danny steams away travel fatigue.

"The first thing I do when I get off the plane and come home is go to my sauna. You wouldn't believe how it relaxes me. I hit it the first thing every morning and sometimes I stay in it a couple of hours reading all the music trades. If I feel like I am coming down with a cold, I go into the sauna and sweat it out," Davis said of his third floor favorite room.

—the private quarters— is composed of a master bedroom, bath, walk-in closets, and the bedroom for their youngest daughter, Tara. Running full length of the house on the third floor is a private redwood balcony. The view from the balcony is breathtaking. It is well shielded from the tour buses by the giant oak trees in the front yard.

"Danny heads for the sauna and then downstairs to work as his relaxation off the road. I go straight to the health club," laughs Barbara. "We rarely see people when we are home because we need the time to ourselves to regroup. Sometimes I stay upstairs all day and just rest."

The Davis home in Brentwood, Tennessee is a 19-room mansion.

The Davis home is elegantly furnished in contemporary furniture and special items they pick up



DANNY IS REALLY EXCITED about new RCA single 'How I Love Them Old Songs' just released. The song is a 'sing-along' tune written by Mickey Newbury.

in their travels.

The alabaster table in their dining room came from Mexico. They saw it, fell in love with it and loaded it aboard their plane. Total cost is under \$300. Yet if they bought

it and had it shipped home the cost would have been around \$2,000.

Many gifts from fans, like the trumpet light on the piano in the den, adorn their home.

A 19 room mansion, several thriving publishing firms, an active production company, a staff of employees, more than 20 albums, a load of singles, a private airplane, luxury automobiles, a supportive wife and four children, plus adoring fans make Danny Davis realize what happens when you dream dreams others may think are unobtainable.



DANNY LOVES THE TRUMPET lamp given to him by a fan. The unusual lamp sits on the piano in his den.



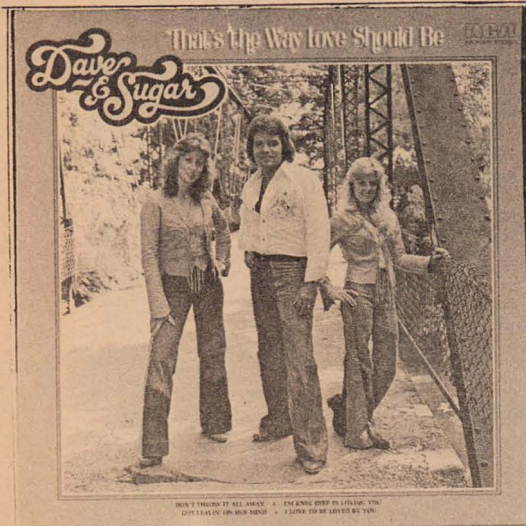
When Danny Davis stands on stage, like he did in Huntsville, and thrills the people with his playing, they think he is pushing music through his horn. They are wrong, he is pushing dreams.

PHOTOS BY
HOPE POWELL

Listening To The Music, We Found...

[Our Pick Of The Month]

Hotline's Picks Of The Month are two albums you will enjoy forever. These albums received our ★ Gold Star. ★



DAVE AND SUGAR: "That's The Way Love Should Be" RCA Records APL1-2477

A strong album that hits the middle of the road squarely, drawing an audience from both country and pop. This is the only group that could replace Tony Orlando and Dawn. In fact, they seem to be so much stronger in their vocals and arrangements than Tony and Dawn. This album blends smooth harmony as a trio, yet each song stands as a single as all three singers put their vocal talent to work. Strongest songs on the album are 'That's The

Way Love Should Be', 'Don't Throw It All Away', and 'We've Got Everything'. But the rest measures up musically to the very best that other groups record. This album should cement a permanent place in the hearts of both country and pop fans for Dave and Sugar, his two female singers. Other selections include 'Got Leavin' On Her Mind', 'I'm Knee Deep In Loving You', 'I Love To Be Loved By You', 'Feel Like A Little Love', 'It's A Beautiful Morning With You', 'I Ain't Leaving Dallas 'Til The Fire Goes Out', and 'Livin' At The End Of The Rainbow'.



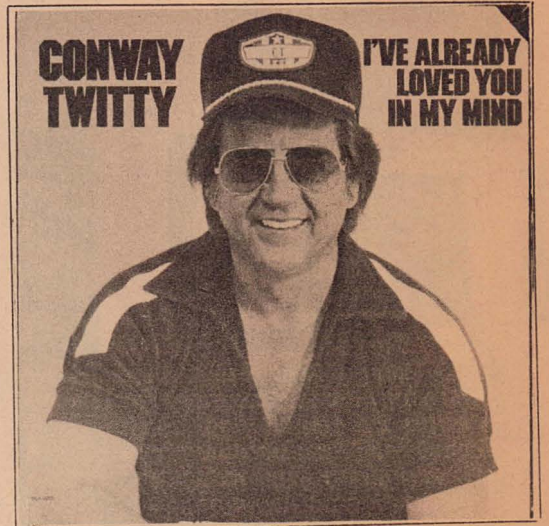
RONNIE MILSAP: "It Was Almost Like A Song" RCA Records APL1-2439

This is the most entertaining, commercially sounding good album you will ever have the rare opportunity to place on your turntable. But once you get it there, you will leave it—the album is that good. Ronnie has put out good albums in the past, but none measure up to this one. Not only has Ronnie enriched us with his professional maturity, his full rich way of singing, but he has chosen some of the strongest material on the Nashville scene to record. The title song of the album, which will be probably the biggest Milsap record to date, is worth buying the album alone. But when you peel the cover off, slide it on your turntable, slip the needle in the grooves, you will find a bonanza of just good music, done in a mellow, laid back style that will live forever. If Ronnie wanted to stay out of the studio for a while, RCA could relax and pick each song off the album as a potential single. They each stand alone...only the singles have not been released to become hits yet—but they will hit. You will be hard pressed to find better songs than 'Long Distance Memory', 'Crystal Fallin' Rain' and 'What A Difference You Made In My Life'. Other selections include 'No One Will Ever Know', 'Selfish', 'Here In Love', 'The Future Is Not What It Used To Be', 'It Don't Hurt To Dream', and 'The Lovin' Kind'.



LARRY GATLIN: "Love Is Just A Game" Monument Records MG 7616

Enough good things can't be written about Larry's latest gallery of hits. Seems there is no end to the boy's talent. Not only does he record 11 strong songs, but he also wrote them. Combine Larry's unique way of singing, his astute way of writing with his soothing way of performing, and you have a young man who is destined to be one of the all time superstars of country music. In this album you have three Gatlin singles: 'If Practice Makes Perfect', his current 'I Don't Wanna Cry', and his soon-to-be-released 'Love Is Just A Game'. Gatlin is the only artist who can successfully blend a couple of gospel songs into an album filled with hurting love, love in the night, and love of his family. That alone says a lot for him...he can do what other artists can't do. Excellent album, very commercial and vibrating. Other selections include 'Tomorrow', 'Anything But Leavin'', 'Everytime A Plane Flies Over Our House', 'I Just Wish You Were Somebody Else', 'Kiss It All Goodbye', 'Love At Last', 'Steps' and 'Alleluia'. Excellent production by Fred Foster.



CONWAY TWITTY: "I've Already Loved You In My Mind" MCA MCA-2293

The ole pro has taken his pen and written all the songs on this album except two. Then with a little polish in the studio plus that rich Twitty touch, he had given us an album worth repeated listening pleasure. If Twitty wanted to quit performing tomorrow and do nothing but write, he would be in an enviable position. The man writes like no other artist, deep, full, rich, and realistically. No one can interpret lyrics like the person who wrote them,

consequently, Twitty's songs come across stronger than ever. The title song is his current hit, and looks like it will be another number one for him. Other potential hits are 'The Reason Why I'm Here', 'I'm Used To Losing You', 'My First Country Song', and the moving, touching, haunting, 'Come See About Me'. 'Judge Of Hearts' and 'Talkin' Bout You' are country/rock blues. Other selections include 'Leona', 'I Changed My Mind', 'Lord, Make Her Want To Stay'. Excellent album with good production by Owen Bradley.

SUSAN RAYE



SUSAN RAYE: "Susan Ray" United Artist Records

A tip of the hat to George Richey for taking one very talented singer, selecting the right material for the singer, putting together a group of Nashville's finest session musicians, and cutting a hit album. This is the best album ever cut on Susan Raye. What a shame, she hasn't been cut properly before now. Her hit single, 'Saturday Night To Sunday Quiet' and her current chart climber, 'It Didn't Have

To Be A Diamond' is the best song Susan has cut since here famous 'L.A. International Airport'. Other selections include 'Reaching Out To Hold You', 'Reachin' For Her and Leanin' On Me', 'Turn Away', 'Mr. Heartache', 'Ozark Mountain Lullaby', 'Honky Tonk Homestead', 'Johnny Sunshine' and 'I'm Alright 'Til I See You (Then I Fall Apart)'. Susan has a rich full voice with a lilting sound that is contagious. Be careful after listening to this album, you will be hooked for life.

DON GIBSON: "If You Ever Get To Houston (Look Me Down)" ABC-Hickory Records

A typical Don Gibson album with each song a potential hit single. Don is one artist who never disappoints the listener with his music. LP features his current

single as the title song, plus 'Love Is Not The Way you Told Me', 'Who Cares (For Me)', 'Jealous Woman', 'When Do We Stop Starting Over', 'How I Love Them Old Songs', 'Fan The Flame, Feed The Fire', 'I'd Rather Die Young (Than Grow Old Without You)'



STELLA PARTON: "Country Sweet" Elektra Records 7E-1111

Sweet little ole Stella has taken a basketful of songs, some of them good, and strong and turned out an album that is worth taking home. This is her first album on Elektra with co-producing done by David and Jim Malloy. Stella's current hit single, 'The Danger Of A Stranger' is the best cut on the album. Although she scored with 'I'm Not That Good At Goodbye', her second single for the label

is much much better and shows Stella at her best. She has a pleasingly different arrangement on 'Little Bitty Tear' and it could well be potential for a single. 'Charlie's Baby' is a catchy tune and is one of the better cuts of the album. Other selections include 'The More The Change', 'I've Got To Have You For Mine', and 'If You're A Dream', all penned by her, and 'Easy To Love', 'Standard Lie Number One'. Good first offering from a very talented singer.

REBA McENTIRE: "Reba McEntire" Mercury Records SRM-1-5002

This gal is going to be one of the top stars in country music if this album is any indication of her talent. She sings with the soul and sound of the late Patsy Cline, but in a style that is distinctively

her own. Selections include 'Glad I Waited Just For You', 'One To One', 'Angel In Your Arms', 'I Don't Want To Be A One Night Stand', 'I've Waited All My Life For You', 'I Was Glad To Give My Everything To You', 'Take Your Love Away', '(There's Nothing Like The Love)

"What I Sing Is What I'm Made Of," Says Pretty Jody Miller



JODY MILLER

Capitol Releases Outlaw Blues Music Pak; Produced By Axton

Capitol Records, Inc., will release the album "Music from 'Outlaw Blues'" with songs taken from the movie which stars Peter Fonda, Susan Saint James and Steve Fromholz, announces Jim Mazza, CRI Vice President, Marketing.

This album, which was produced by Hoyt Axton, contains three songs sung by Fonda, another that's a duet between Fonda and Ms. Saint James, three sung by Fromholz, one sung by Axton and two instrumentals ('Outlaw on the Run' and 'Love Theme from Outlaw Blues') written and conducted by the film's musical director Charles Bernstein.

'Outlaw Blues,' filmed on location in Texas, is an adventure-romance movie flavored with humor. Fonda plays an ex-con named Bobby Ogden who teams up with a street-smart girl promoter to win the recognition and money that go with a hit song stolen from him by a successful country music star. The stolen song is the movie's title tune, 'Outlaw Blues,' which has been chosen to be a real single. It was penned by John Oates (of Hall & Oates).

The Peter Fonda—Susan Saint James duet is 'I Dream of Highways' (written by Hoyt Axton & Renee Armand). Fonda, who had never sung on-screen or on record before the movie and album, also sings 'Water for my

Horses' (by Hoyt Axton) and 'Jailbirds Can't Fly' (by Harlan Sanders and R.C. O'Leary). Axton sings 'Whisper in a Velvet Night' (authored by Lee Clayton, who has just signed with Capitol). Capitol recording artist Steve Fromholz sings the Axton-penned 'Beyond These Walls' and two originals—'Everybody's Goin' on the Road' and 'Little More Holy.'

Fromholz, who has played with Stephen Stills, Rick Roberts and Michael Murphey, has recently emerged as one of the best of the new Texas 'outlaw' singer-songwriter-musicians.

Jimmy Selph Opens Circle Talent

Jimmy Selph, well known in the booking agent business, has officially opened doors to a brand new talent agency at 50 Music Square West, Nashville.

Jimmy says, "I've worked with most of the winning acts over the past 10 years, and I have now decided to open a new agency, Winners Circle. I am doing this in hopes that I can be of service to my many friends whom I've worked with over the years."

Winners Circle Talent offices will be located on the Fifth floor of the United Artist Tower, 50 Music Square West.

"I love entertaining people," says auburn-haired Jody Miller, the songstress whose avenue to fame opened with her giant hit, 'Queen of the House,' in response to Roger Millers' (no relation) 'King of the Road.'

This popular standard catapulted a young pop stylist into one of country music's best known personalities, and gave way to Jody's hit sequels on the Epic label.

While living in Los Angeles with her husband, Monty Brooks, Jody recorded her first recognized pop single, 'He Walks Like A Man,' then other top middle-of-the-road songs with producer Steve Douglas. Grammy award winner, 'Queen of the House,' came along with just the right opportunity for Jody, and suddenly she found herself heading radio playlists in

country, pop and easy listening classes, a most unusual success. It was her first venture onto the country charts and the fans took her to heart immediately.

Born in Phoenix, Jody Miller was raised in Blanchard, Oklahoma, the youngest of six daughters. Her father played fiddle and invited all the ladies of his family to sing as they entertained among themselves at home. During high school Jody formed a folk trio that performed mostly at school functions; her profession wouldn't take form until sometime later.

Married to her hometown sweetheart, it was Monty who gave his bride strong encouragement over her musical talents and so she took a job singing in a coffee house on the Oklahoma University campus at Norman. It

was a fortunate choice, for Lou Gottlieb, a member of the famed Lighthouse, heard Jody and came backstage one evening with lavish praise for the petite performer. He suggested that she move to Los Angeles to try for a recording contract, and offered his assistance. But Jody didn't think she was into a big career at the time, and so spent her days working as a secretary in the State Capitol Building in nearby Oklahoma City.

Jody and Monty did begin to mull over the idea of attempting to launch her career and decided to take a two week vacation to Southern California to look things over; they stayed seven years.

"My hope, really, was to record," says Jody. After making the rounds of producers' offices where she didn't even get an audition, she went to see a friend of Monty's, actor Dale Robertson. He listened to her sing and was so impressed that he immediately phoned Capitol Records; three months later Jody found herself with that coveted recording contract.

There's a line in 'Queen of the House' that goes "...pretty soon there'll be one more." It couldn't have been more apropos, for when Jody walked into the studio in Los Angeles to cut the song she was eight months pregnant with daughter, Robin, who was soon born on Mother's Day. The record company couldn't have staged a better promotion to coincide with the song's lyrics.

While Jody stayed in the country field, she doesn't feel music should be stalemated within categories.

"I like to record, and what I sing is what I'm made of. I like to sing pop-flavored country songs," she says. "Once in a while an artist comes along that you can't put a finger on. That's the way I think I am."

Jody Miller's career has spanned nearly 15 years, during which time

she has remained one of the industry's best known artists.

"One reason for that, I think, is having a number one record right off the bat. When 'Queen of the House' hit, everything came together at the same time. That song is still working for me."

But so are her many subsequent releases, first with Epic producer Billy Sherrill, and now with Larry Butler. Some of these include 'He's So Fine' (a Grammy nominee), 'Baby, I'm Yours,' 'House of the Rising Sun,' 'When the New Wears Off Our Love,' and 'There's a Party Goin' On,' in addition to her latest single, 'Another Lonely Night.'

None were penned by Jody, although she says she would try to write a song if she were ever truly inspired.

"I've just never had the urge," says Jody, "and I think a person in the music business should have the urge. I don't believe in doing anything unless you want to very badly and it is an inspiration for you." If the lady ever made the attempt, she might compose by way of the two instruments she plays, guitar and fiddle, both a motivation from her father's musical abilities.

Jody's wealth of hit recordings have accounted for her star billing during appearances on television, in concert halls, Las Vegas, major state and county fairs and rodeos, most of them made with her four-piece touring band, Western Union.

Someday, she says, she'd like to try her hand at films. Her effervescent personality lends so well to lighthearted material, to comedy, that she'd prefer that type of script over drama. "Humor's the easiest thing to get people on your side when you're trying to do a stage show," she says in comparison.

Jody's spare time is spent on the family's 1100-acre ranch in Blanchard and her most ardent hobby is the breeding and raising of racing quarter horses.

NSA Sets Awards, Dinner Show, Oct. 9



THE ANNUAL AWARDS Ceremony & Dinner of the Nashville Songwriters Association has been scheduled Sunday, October 9, and will once again be staged at the Sheraton South, in Music City.

Reservation blanks have been mailed to all members of the association and tickets are also now available on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$15 per person at the NSAI Bldg., 25 Music Square West.

Among those working on final banquet plans (shown above) are, Maggie Cavender, NSAI Executive Director; Mary Reeves Davis, Awards Ceremony Committee Member; and Edie Jameson, Sheraton South Catering Director.

The Capitals Save Show For Guy And Ralna

One good turn deserves a guest spot on a national television syndication program if Guy and Ralna of the Lawrence Welk show have their way.

The husband and wife duo were appearing with Rising Star Recording artists, The Capitals, on a fair date in Pittsfield, Pa., recently when the backup band for the TV

artists failed to appear.

The Capitals, who travel with their own backup band, had preceded Guy and Ralna on the program and were in the process of tearing down their equipment when they learned of the plight. The all male country group quickly offered their band to back the duet.

The end results were a

very happy crowd, a radiant Guy and Ralna who continuously praised the Capitals and their band for coming to their rescue.

After the show, Guy and Ralna met with the Capitals and asked them if they would be agreeable to work a guest spot on the Lawrence Welk Show in the future.

Said Guy, "The Capitals turned a very bad experience for us into one of the more joyful concerts we have ever worked. We are their fans now...these guys are fantastic."

The Capitals will co-headline the Montclair, Pa., State Fair September 11 with Jeannie C. Riley.

Chris DeLoux Rides Bare Back Bronc; Writes And Sings Country Music

Chris DeLoux, current World Champion Cowboy as a bare back bronc rider has signed contracts with the William Morris Agency for representation according to announcement by Bob Neal, William Morris, Nashville Office.

According to Neal, the Morris office will represent Chris with possibilities of careers in films, television, recording, commercials, etc.

LeDoux, a 28-year-old Northern Wyoming cowboy is relatively unknown to the entertainment industry, but is widely known in rodeo circles, as much for his singing and song writing abilities as he is for the top

ranking on the bucking record albums to his credit.

LeDoux has seven record albums to his credit. They've been recorded in Nashville featuring top Nashville musicians and sales have been by word of mouth, advertising in rodeo oriented publications and has a large fan following among rodeo fans.

He numbers among his friends many of the top musical talents in Nashville including Charlie Daniels. LeDoux recorded one of Daniels' songs 'Cabello Diablo,' and when Charlie learned that Chris was coming to Nashville to record another album he volunteered to sit in on a session

as a musician and also wrote a poem to Chris called 'Sing Me A Song, Mr. Rodeo Man' which has become the liner note on the back of LeDoux's latest album.

The May issue of Saga magazine recognized LeDoux's dual talents by dubbing him "The singing cowboy of the '70's." Chris has been writing and singing of his unique way of rodeo life since his college days about 10 years ago.

"It's a tough life on the rodeo circuit and the aches and pains are beginning to catch up to Chris," said Neal.

We feel that his singing and acting potential is excellent and are happy



CHRIS DELOUX

to go to work in developing a new career.

Country Music Association Mails Comprehensive Kit To Organizational Members

CMA organizational members are now being sent their copies of the comprehensive kit put together by CMA reflecting the findings of the Arbitron Study of country music radio listeners.

The study, which was conducted in 26 markets throughout the United States, analyzes income, household and buying characteristics of those persons who listen to country radio. The study

shows that country music radio listeners are quite similar to all radio listeners in a number of ways but they have some unique qualities all their own, as well.

For example, more country listeners are found in the high income bracket (\$50,000 plus per year) than average radio listeners. Furthermore, 55 percent of all country music listeners have

investments.

According to the study, a greater percentage of country listeners own their own homes rather than rent, and drink more beer, soft drinks and milk than average radio listeners.

CMA commissioned the study with an objective in mind to determine the following practices of radio listeners: food purchasing behavior, beverage consumption, leisure time activities, vehicle ownership, use of financial services, in-

vestment activity, home ownership, age, education, family income, etc.

The kit should prove to be an invaluable sales tool for country radio stations, besides providing a more personal picture of the nation's country music audience. It is only available to members of CMA in the Organizational category; for more information about the Arbitron kit, contact Kathy Hooper at the CMA, 7 Music Circle North, Nashville, Tn. 37203, phone 615-244-2840.

Carolina Charlie Signs \$2.8 Million Entertainment Pact

"Carolina" Charlie, veteran country disc-jockey and country entertainer, has just signed a \$2.8 million contract with the Lavinstein managed Holiday Inns of Norfolk—Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The 10 year pact calls for Charlie to perform and/or provide entertainment at the County Line Lounge on Military Hiway in Virginia Beach, except when he has major concerts.

The contract was negotiated by Charlie's manager, George Green Law. Law said, "I believe this is the first time a country entertainer has ever signed a contract of this magnitude without the benefit of a major record.

"Carolina" Charlie, a country disc-jockey for the past 17 years, is presently working as program

director at Honey (WHNE) Radio in Portsmouth—Norfolk.

The new 5,000 watt 24 hour country station is owned by John Sinclair of Crawfordsville, Ind., and managed by Bob Sinclair.

Shorts

Barbara Fairchild will join Don Williams for a tour of England, Sept. 15-Oct. 2. Barbara is wearing her natural brown hair now. She says, "There are enough blondes in country music."

Charlie Rich is the featured vocalist on the theme song from the recently released movie 'For the Love of Benji.' Rich has a number one song 'Rolling With The Flow' and it's crossing over into other formats of airplay.



SKEETER DAVIS of the Grand Ole Opry has signed exclusive representation agreements with the Nashville office of the William Morris Agency according to announcement by Dolores Smiley and Bob Neal. "We enthusiastically welcome Skeeter who's one of the established stars of the Grand Ole Opry to our growing roster of top country entertainers," was the comment by Smiley and Neal.

Among her many top credits, Skeeter was the first country female artist to sell over a million records in her 1963 release of 'The End Of The World.' Her top hit list includes unforgettable hits such as 'I Forgot More Than You'll Ever Know,' 'Set Him Free,' 'What Does It Take,' 'One Tin Soldier.'

Waylon And Willie Asks CMA To Remove Names From Awards

Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson, country music two best known outlaws, unsuccessfully tried to have their names removed from the balloting of the annual Country Music Association Awards.

Jennings—who leads the nominations in five of the 10 categories—and Nelson—who is nominated in one category—notified the Country Music Association prior to the first balloting that they wanted their names to be kept from the nominations.

The Country Music Association was notified of this by letter from Jennings' and Nelson's attorney, Elliot Hoffman. The reason cited was "...The relationship between Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings is a warm and close one. Plainly and simply they would prefer not to enter the competition. We, therefore, request not only that they not be considered for awards if they are nominated, but that they not even be considered for nominations."

The CMA, after submitting the request to its board of directors at its quarterly meeting in July, denied the request.

In a reply to Hoffman, the CMA said it would never consciously do anything whatsoever to influence its members either positively or negatively in casting their votes.

A spokesman for both Willie and Waylon indicated neither performer will appear on or at the awards show.

Hofer To Teach Music PR At Belmont College

Ms. Betty Hofer, who often contributes features to the Hotline, has accepted an invitation to join Belmont College's Music Business faculty this fall and will serve as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Relations. Presently employed as Public Relations Director at Bill Hudson & Associates, Ms. Hofer was the first individual selected to teach an experimental Maymester Course at Belmont on Music

Business PR, and its effectiveness has resulted in this year's addition of the specialized course.

Offering a comprehensive study in all areas of publicity and public relations activities, which pertain strictly to the entertainment industry, classes will include field trips and special guest lectures from within the music business community.



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Mickey Gilley Opens 24-Track Recording Studio In Texas

Mickey Gilley has announced that work has been completed on a complete 24-track recording studio located adjacent to Gilley's Club in Pasadena, Texas.

The studio was designed and built by Bert Friot of Houston. Friot said that "the studio has \$500,000 of the newest recording equipment, including an MCI 24-track recorder and a Harrison console."

Gilley has already produced several sides on Kenny Fulton, who is a

featured vocalist with the Bayou City Beats at Gilley's Club.

Gilley is pictured above in the new studio with Bert Friot, Bruce Nelson, music director of KENR, Joe Ladd, music director of KIKK, and Tom Mayberry, bass player in Gilley's Red Rose Express road band.

"There is a tremendous advantage in having the studio adjacent to Gilley's," says Friot.

"Groups can record live albums from the club. In the past, recording live al-

bums always meant using mobile trucks which was never as good as studio conditions. At Gilley's, groups can now do almost anything from the bandstand which they would do in a studio. TV cameras will be in the club enabling the producer to watch the group back in the studio."

The building housing the studio will include a lounge, color tv, game room, pool tables, pin ball machines, full-size kitchen and offices in addition to the studio itself."



SHOWN GOING OVER the new studio equipment at the recording studio near Gilley's are, from left, Bert Friot, Bruce Nelson, music director of KENR, Joe Ladd, music director of KIKK, Tom Mayberry, bass player in Gilley's Red Rose Express road band, and Gilley.

Country Queen Kitty Wells Signs Pact With Heritage House Family Restaurant

Country Music Hall of Famer Kitty Wells has formed a long-term working relationship with the Heritage House Smorgasbord Family Restaurant Chain.

Wells will be the official spokesperson for the Heritage House Chain. Her duties will include televised advertisements and participation in corporate functions.

"I'm so proud to be a part of this corporate family which offers the finest in good, down-home country food," explained The Queen of Country

Music.

An accomplished cook herself, Ms. Wells has all the ingredients to make her the perfect candidate for their spokesperson. According to Richard Jones, General Manager of the Company's Nashville operation, "We've done 35 per cent more business since the commercials. We've had so many people come in and say that they've seen the commercials and this prompted them to come and dine with us."

Since its establishment in Springfield, Ill., in 1965,

the Heritage House Corporation has added 11 other locations mainly in the Midwest. The Nashville franchise, which is the first for the South, houses 900, is open seven days a week and offers banquet facilities for 600 and private dining. Their menu includes a wide variety of southern-style dishes, and other All-American favorites.

The corporation has ambitious expansion plans for the Tennessee location, in all of which Ms. Wells is expected to be included.

'Pig' Is A Good Picker

It's no accident that in the past three years Hargus 'Pig' Robbins has appeared on more number one records cut in Nashville than any other session musician.

He's worked hard at being a good picker.

Born in Spring City, Pig started taking piano lessons at age seven at the Tennessee School for the Blind in Nashville, but since his instructors didn't teach 'country style' playing, Pig had to pursue it on his own. He picked up what he could from radio and records. At 15 he quit taking lessons and began to develop his own style.

After graduating from high school, Pig played in clubs and parties around Nashville. When he played on a friend's record 'demo' it was his playing that got the attention, not the songs, so he joined the Musicians Union and began getting session work. Within a couple of years he was established as a top Nashville session man.

Pig's first big break was playing on George Jones' hit, 'White Lightning' in 1960. Since then he has appeared on countless country sides includ-



"PIG" ROBBINS

ing records by Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, Tammy Wynette, Johnny Rodriguez, George Jones, Charlie Rich, Billie Jo Spears, Merle Haggard, Tom T. Hall, Ronnie Milsap, Joe Stampley and many others.

In 1976 he won the Country Music Association's 'Instrumentalist of the Year' award. In 1977 he won the same honor from the Academy of Country Music. In a warm tribute from his fellow musicians Pig was escorted to the stage for his CMA award by the other

four musicians nominated in the category.

In 1977 his peers voted him the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences' "Most Valuable Player." In addition NARAS named him "Super Picker of the Year" for playing on the most sessions of the 57 records chosen in that year's awards competition.

Pig's debut Elektra/Asylum album, 'Country Instrumentalist of the Year,' features five of his own compositions, including the single release 'Sweet and Warm.'

Carter Family Has 50th Anniversary



THE CARTER FAMILY celebrated its 50th anniversary in August with a special concert and homecoming in the Carter's home town of Hilton, Va. Special honored guests were Sara and Maybelle Carter, original members of the group who performed from 1927 - 1941. Although Mother Maybelle did not perform, she brought her famous 50-years old Gibson guitar and elected her daughter, Helen, to carry on the tradition of playing it in her style. Shown performing are, from left, June Carter Cash, Helen, Grand Ole Opry star Jan Howard, and Anita Carter. In addition to the thousands of fans, country historians and special guests attending the anniversary celebration were Johnny Cash, Mrs. Ralph Peer, widow of the founder of Peer Southern Music. The concert show was held in the auditorium next to the old general store of A. P. Carter's which has now been turned into a Carter Family Museum.

The Statlers Are Winning All America With Clean Country

In this era where you seemingly can't turn around without reading or hearing something about the "outlaws" in country music, the Statler Brothers stand uniquely above it all.

They are not "outlaws," but merely entertainers in every sense of the word.

The Statlers do not carouse in bars after shows; they meet and talk with their many fans. While others throw barbecues and picnics with a star-studded line-up of talent that may draw 40,000, the Statlers throw a 4th of July birthday party for America, have only one other act besides themselves, and have consistently drawn 50,000 people for the past seven years.

The Statler Brothers walk off with yearly awards from nearly every organization for Top Vocal Group. You don't read about the Statlers in headlines, but they have enough loyal fans to earn a gold record (over 500,000 sales) for their 'The Best of Statler Brothers' album.

The current success of the Statler Brothers is astounding. During the past two years, they have released five albums; not one has sold less than 100,000 copies, which is well above par for a country album. This includes two gospel albums, which are rarely big sellers for any act, no matter what their stature.

The story of Harold Reid, Lew DeWitt, Don

Reid, and Phil Balsley collectively known as the Statlers, has been chronicled many times, but these are the highlights: In 1955 the group sang together for the first time, but it wasn't until 1963 that they turned professional by joining the Johnny Cash Show. Two years later came 'Flowers on the Wall,' the first in a long line of hits for the group, including 'Bed of Roses,' 'Do You Remember These,' 'The Class of '57,' 'I'll Go to My Grave Loving You,' 'Thank God, I've Got You' and 'I Was There.'

The new album, 'Short Stories,' is possibly the strongest of their career. The Statlers' distinctive brand of humor is evident in 'The Regular Saturday Nite Setback Card Game.' They take an unusual look at one of World War II's forgotten casualties in 'Silver Medals and Sweet Memories.' Of special note is 'The Star,' a look inside the mind of



THE STATLER BROTHERS

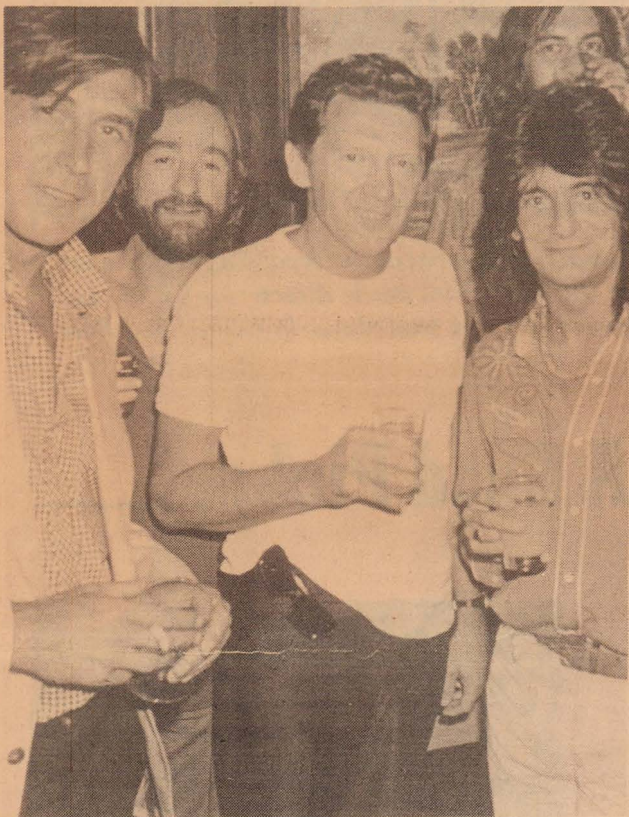
an entertainer before and during a performance.

The Statler Brothers shy away from analyzing the reasons behind their longevity as country

music stars for fear they may start imitating rather than innovating. As Harold points out, "We're not going to think about what we do. We're just going

to do it and hope we get it right."

Obviously, the philosophy has been successful for the group that likes to be called entertainers—both on and off the record.



HE MADE THEM wait but at 3:30 a.m. Jerry Lee Lewis said OK, and in walked, left to right: Bryan Ferry, Dave Mason, Ronny Wood and Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac, slurping the suds in the background. That's Jerry Lee with the sunglasses in the hip pocket. The event was a Jerry Lee Lewis stay at the Palamino in Los Angeles. Talk about roots.

Ol' Waylon Goes Gold Again!

Waylon Jennings is proving to be just about the hottest artist of the long, hot summer.

This past week, his third RCA album in four months was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America.

This time it was 'Are You Ready for the Country?' Five weeks ago, 'Ol' Waylon' went Gold and continues to set a sizzling sales price which should make it Waylon's second Platinum album of this year (the first was

'The Outlaws').

The third album to reach gold in recent months was 'Dreaming My Dreams,' and all the al-

bums are as hot as a heat wave in 'Luckenbach, Texas,' and everyone knows how hot that can be.

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"Selling Country" Is CMA Talent Buyers Theme

"Selling Country" is the theme of the Country Music Association's Sixth Annual Talent Buyers Seminar, scheduled October 7-10 at Nashville's Hyatt Regency, with registration set for October 6.

Those who register for the event before September 23 will receive an 'early bird' registration rate of \$60 per person.

Regular registration after September 23 is \$65. Registration forms are available from the CMA at (615) 244-2840. Each registrant will also receive one ticket to the CMA Awards Show on Monday night, October 10 and one ticket to the Post Awards Party, with additional Party tickets available for \$15 each.

Tandy Rice is chairman of the 1977 Talent Buyers Seminar, with Paul King and Shorty Lavender serving as co-chairman. Other committee members include: George Moffett, Johnnie Massey, Bob Bray, Dolores Smiley, Jack Norman, Jr., Don Kierns, Myles Johnson, Mike Feurt, Hap Peebles, Sonny Simmons, Billy Deaton, George Meagher, Paul Buck, Tom Pauley, Al Embry, Jimmy Jay, Ron Blackwood and Joe Taylor.

Subcommittees respon-

sible for planning and coordinating the seminar are:

TALENT SHOWCASE—Chairman, Jimmy Jay; Shorty Lavender and Jack Sublette.

SEMINAR TOPICS—Chairman, Andrea Smith; Don Kierns; Sonny Simmons; Dick Black; and Jack Norman, Jr.

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS—Chairman, Ray Pradines; Hap Peebles and Bob Bray.

LOGISTICS—Chairman, Johnnie Massey; and Mike Feurt.

George Jones recently starred at the Tulsa Opry at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

True Records signed Tiny Tim to a recording contract. Tiny will be doing a country session in early Oct. A press-cocktail party was held in his honor.

Minnie Pearl is hitting the fair circuit heavy this year.

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JACK STAPP, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Tree International, goes over expansion plans that will soon give the Tree operation a new demo studio to be housed at the firm's Nashville headquarters. The future 16-track facility is expected to cover 2,800 square feet, and has been estimated to cost in excess of \$150,000. A target date for completion of the studio has been set as January 1. Shown with Stapp are Tree's Cliff Williamson, Don Gant and Dan Wilson.

DJ Of The Year Finalists Announced By Country Music Ass'n.

Sixteen finalists have been announced in the annual Country Music Association's Disc Jockey of the Year competition.

The finalists, selected in three categories, will submit a 30-minute telescoped air checks to the CMA's anonymous five judge panel, who will select the recipients of the three awards.

Finalists in the small market category are: Dottie O'Daley, WAEY Radio, Princeton, W.V.; Shannon Reed, KWMT, Fort Dodge, Ia.; Tom Reeder, WKCW, Warrenton, Va.; Dusty Rhodes, WBOX, Bay City, Mi.;

and Ann Williams, WSVL, Shelbyville, Ind.

Medium market finalists are Bob Berry, WWVA, Wheeling, W. Va.; Mike Hoyer, KFGO, Fargo, N.D.; Tiny Hughes, WROZ, Evansville, Ind.; Buddy Ray, WWVA, Wheeling, W. Va.; Larry Scott, KFDI, Wichita, Ks.

Finalists in the large market area include Charlie Douglas, WVL, New Orleans, La.; Ellie Dylan, WMAQ, Chicago, Ill.; Larry Kenney, WHN, New York, N.Y.; David Lee, WIL, St. Louis, Mo.; Bill Mack, WBAP, Ft. Worth, Tex.; and Bill Robinson, WIRE, Indianapolis, Ind.

The winners will be announced during the Country Music Association dinner and show during the annual WSM Birthday Celebration and Disc Jockey Convention.

Baunach Gets Promotion Honor

Larry Baunach, vice president of Sales and Promotion for ABC/Dot Records in Nashville, has been named a finalist in the annual International Radio Programming Forum awards competition sponsored by Billboard Magazine.

Baunach is up for "National Promotion Executive of the Year."

Baunach came to Dot Records' Nashville division in 1971. Prior to entering the music business as an A&R administrator for CBS Records, Baunach worked for the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service division.

Baunach has previously won the Gavin Award for top national country promotion man, and was named National Country Music Promotion Man of the Year by Record World magazine in 1976.

Luckenbach On TV

Luckenbach, Tx.—Gary Stewart and The Drugstore Cowboys, Joe Ely, Johnny Duncan and Johnny Paycheck performed at a two day taping session which will result in two one-hour specials to be distributed initially over Texas television stations.

Barry Sullivan, Lone Star marketing manager, said that as a result of the first sessions there are plans to make these tapes at Luckenbach on a monthly basis for airing on commercial TV prime time.

During the weekend, tourists and locals were amazed as two hundred invited guests including University of Texas Athletic Director Darrell Royal happily sweated out the sessions in the un-air-conditioned Luckenbach Dance Hall.

Concept for the series

came about as a spinoff from the hit song 'Luckenbach' which was made popular by Waylon Jennings. Kathy Morgan, the First Lady and co-owner of Luckenbach, said she welcomed the opportunity to show off the small town as it really exists on a typical Saturday night.

JERRY WALLACE must have a lot of confidence in manager Ron Blackwood in view of the recent mishap with Wallace's guitar in Fargo, ND. Ron leaned the guitar case against a car and momentarily forgot about it until the car pulled away and ran over Wallace's case. In spite of the accident, the guitar wasn't badly damaged, nor was the friendship.

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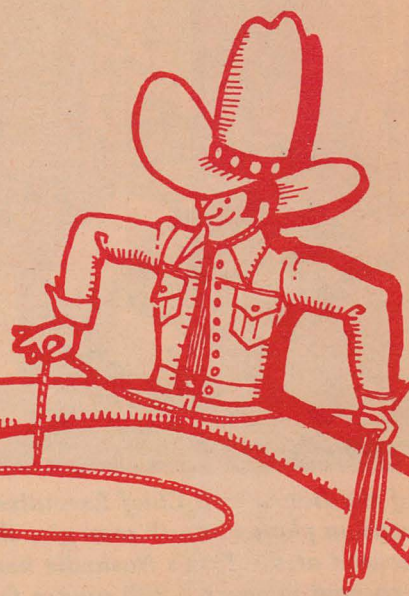
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